

County of San Diego
Revised: March 23, 2000
Reviewed: Spring 2003

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE I
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE II
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE III

Class No. 004566
Class No. 004565
Class No. 004567

DEFINITION:

To perform professional public health nursing duties in homes, public health centers, and other community settings; and to perform related work.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Positions in these classes are found only in the Health and Human Services Agency.

Public Health Nurse I:

This is the entry-level class in the Public Health Nurse series. Under immediate supervision, a Public Health Nurse I performs professional public health nursing duties and receives orientation and continuing in-service education.

Public Health Nurse II:

This is the journey level class in the Public Health Nurse series. Under general supervision, a Public Health Nurse II performs the full range of public health nursing duties in homes, public health centers, and other community settings.

Public Health Nurse III:

This is the lead/expert level class in the Public Health Nurse series. Under direction, a Public Health Nurse III acts as lead nurse providing consultation and assisting in the supervision of lower-level staff within a public health program. This class differs from the next higher level, Public Health Nurse IV, in that the latter is the first level supervisor.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Provides public health nursing services to individuals and/or families; conducts home visits in urban and rural communities; examines patients to identify health problems; assesses and identifies individual and community health needs; provides case management to high risk populations; and instructs families in health promotion and management of health and health-related problems.

Utilizes services of other health and social services agencies to assist families; assists with clinic services providing health care to the community; prepares and transmits case records, reports, and recommendations on patient care; prepares and presents educational topics to staff, students, agency members and the community; identifies and reports child or dependent adult abuse; and may participate in providing group education.

Public Health Nurse II (in addition to the duties listed above):

Coordinates health care services of assigned area with various care sources and utilizes services of other health and social service agencies to assist families; may work on special projects in conjunction with department staff or other health services agencies.

Public Health Nurse III (in addition to the duties listed above):

Provides consultation on specialized health care assignments and/or programs; and assists in screening and preparing cases; assists in assigning, directing, and evaluating the work of subordinate staff assigned to a district or specialized service; and assumes full supervisory responsibility in the absence of the supervisor.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge Level: T = Thorough; G = General; -- = Not Applicable

Classification Level: I = Public Health Nurse I
 II = Public Health Nurse II
 III = Public Health Nurse III

Knowledge of:

I II III

G	T	T	Public health practices and the application of nursing knowledge, principles and skills for the promotion of health and the prevention of disease and disability.
G	T	T	General nursing skills and practices in the areas of maternal and child health, adult medical and surgical nursing, and communicable disease control.
G	T	T	Community resources and how to utilize them.
G	T	T	Nutrition and preventive health practices.
G	T	T	Cultural differences in health care.
G	T	T	Child growth and development.
G	G	T	Current developments in public health nursing.
G	G	G	Mental health and psychiatric nursing.
G	G	G	Ordinances, rules and regulations governing public health services and nursing practices.
--	--	G	Principles of supervision and training.

Skills and Abilities to:

- Manage time effectively.
- Promote the development of professional nursing skills.
- Perform nursing examinations and interview and assess patients.
- Perform clinical tasks such as venipunctures, giving injections, dispensing medications and assisting with examinations.
- Keep accurate, concise and legally appropriate records and reports.
- Establish and maintain cooperative relationships with health and other professionals and subprofessionals and the general public.
- Adapt to various cultural, physical and behavioral conditions of patients and environment.
- Teach both individuals and groups.
- Communicate effectively orally and in writing.

Public Health Nurse III (in addition to the skills listed above):

- Provide consultation on specialized program assignments.
- Assist in supervising and training subordinate staff.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Education, training and/or experience, which clearly demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities stated above. Examples of qualifying education/experience are:

Public Health Nurse I:

A Bachelor of Science degree from an accredited college or university in nursing. One (1) or more years of experience as a Registered Nurse working under the direct supervision of an official public health nursing agency with a generalized public health nursing program is highly desirable.

Public Health Nurse II:

1. A Bachelor of Science degree from an accredited college or university in nursing, AND, two (2) years of experience as a Registered Nurse. At least one (1) year of this experience must have been under the direct supervision of an official public health agency with a generalized public health nursing program; OR, two (2) years of experience as a Registered Nurse working with at least one of the following groups: pregnant and parenting women, infants and toddlers, adults and children with tuberculosis, community aggregate groups regarding maternal and child health issues and communicable disease; OR,
2. A master's degree from an accredited college or university in a nursing, public health or related specialty, AND, one (1) year of public health nursing experience; OR, one (1) year of Registered Nursing experience as described above; OR,
3. One (1) year of experience as a Public Health Nurse I for the County of San Diego.

Public Health Nurse III:

1. A Bachelor of Science degree from an accredited college or university in nursing, AND, three (3) years of experience as a Registered Nurse. At least two (2) years of this experience must have been under the direct supervision of an official public health agency with a generalized public health nursing program; OR, three (3) years of experience as a Registered Nurse working with at least one of the following groups: pregnant and parenting women, infants and toddlers, adults and children with tuberculosis, community aggregate groups regarding maternal and child health issues and communicable disease; OR,
2. A master's degree from an accredited college or university in a nursing, public health or related specialty, AND, two (2) years of public health nursing experience; OR, two (2) years of Registered Nursing experience as described above; OR,
3. Two (2) years of experience as a Public Health Nurse II for the County of San Diego.

SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS:**Notes:**

In accordance with California Penal Code section 1166.5, candidates hired in this class must acknowledge that they are aware of child abuse reporting requirements and will comply with them.

Licenses and Certificate:

Incumbents must possess a current California Registered Nurse License and Public Health Nurse Certificate at the time of application.

The possession of a current CPR card at the time of appointment is highly desirable.

A valid California Class C driver's license or the ability to arrange transportation for field travel is required at time of appointment. Employees in this class may be required to use their personal vehicle.

Working Conditions:

Incumbents are exposed to patients with communicable diseases and persons that may be potentially hostile or violent. Incumbents travel to community areas that are potentially dangerous.

Background Investigation:

Incumbents must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness with no felony convictions. Misdemeanor convictions may be disqualifying depending on number, severity, and recency.

Probationary Period:

Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in this class shall serve a probationary period of twelve (12) months (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5).